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For Immediate Release
June 24, 2004

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Sen. Gilbert's bill signed making reimbursement easier for ambulance services

LANSING – Ambulance services will more easily receive reimbursement under legislation signed today by the governor, announced Sen. Jud Gilbert, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 296 requires commercial health insurance providers to provide payment for emergency ambulance services directly to the ambulance company or by a joint-issued check to the ambulance company and the patient. This new law only applies to emergency medical transport.

“In many cases, insurance companies issue a check to the patient, instead of the ambulance service, for the charges,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “The patient in turn is supposed to pay the ambulance provider. Unfortunately, for many of these claims, patients fail to pay the ambulance service and instead pocket the money for personal use.”

Failing to pay the ambulance providers results in financial losses for the ambulance industry and additional costs to the health care system, through lost revenue and through the added administrative costs of trying to recover the money originally paid to the patient.

“High quality emergency ambulance service is vital to every Michigan resident,” Gilbert said. “This new law provides needed support to people who can make the difference not only between a patient’s full recovery and costly rehabilitation, but also between life and death.”

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